FALL 2025

Alumni Columns

Northwestern State University Magazine

GREETINGS

***James T. Genovese** (1971)*
President
Northwestern State University

Dear alumni,

Things are buzzing on the Northwestern campus. In addition to celebrating the first football win of the season, Alost Hall is open for classes and the university is launching a redesigned website. Northwestern State pride and spirit is pervasive throughout Natchitoches.

NSU's enrollment is stabilizing. We are 100 percent in our residence halls. It shows progress and we are winning the battle to get Northwestern to the state of prominence it deserves.

On the opposite page, you can read the results of a recent economic impact study that outlines NSU's importance in the 10-parish region it serves.

Northwestern has greatly transformed from the small teacher training school that opened 141 years ago. We are using Artificial Intelligence to provide students with future-ready skills and developing business and industry partnerships so that our graduates are ready to fulfill workforce needs right here in Louisiana.

Thank you for your support of Northwestern. We hope to see you soon!

Jill Bankston (1997)
Director
Alumni & Development

Dear alumni,

Our campus is booming! New students are finding their way around their new home. And with lots of help from upperclassmen, and our faculty and staff, they are becoming cozier every day. They have excitement in their eyes as we will welcome them with open arms into the Demon family. Thank YOU, our alumni & supporters, for helping them find their way to Demonland. You have provided scholarships and other financial support, and you encourage all of us. You have made phone calls, opened your home and told your stories. Keep it up by flying your flags, wearing your purple and being Proud to be Purple.

Now, we are in the midst of the annual Columns Fund Membership Drive. The Columns Fund is our annual giving program and touches more of us than people realize, from student workers keeping their jobs during the summer, to programs and opportunities that uphold our traditions, like Christmas Gala, Homecoming and Long Purple Line. It provides visibility and gives us resources to engage alumni, supporters, students and our community. Every donor makes a difference.

Homecoming 2025 is earlier than usual this year! It's Oct. 3-4, and we are thrilled to be honoring several alumni. If you haven't attended Homecoming recently, I encourage you to join us for an outstanding weekend of reconnection and celebration. Come be part of all the excitement.

Best, Jill

GO PAPERLESS and access Alumni Columns wherever you are.

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Secretary....Camille Nunez, Slidell, 2001
Treasurer....John Evans, Natchitoches, 1992
Past President....Patricia Hrapmann, New Orleans, 1973, 1978

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Executive Vice President/
Chief of Staff....Dr. William Drake Owens, 2004, 2005

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Monty Chicola....Alexandria, 1979
Shade Dufrene....Savannah, Texas, 1999, 2003
Allen Evans....Shreveport, 1989
Angelique Duhon Freel....Baton Rouge, 2000
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Jeremy LaCombe....New Roads, 1999
Lane Luckie....Tyler, Texas, 2008
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Leighann Westfall....Baton Rouge, 2017

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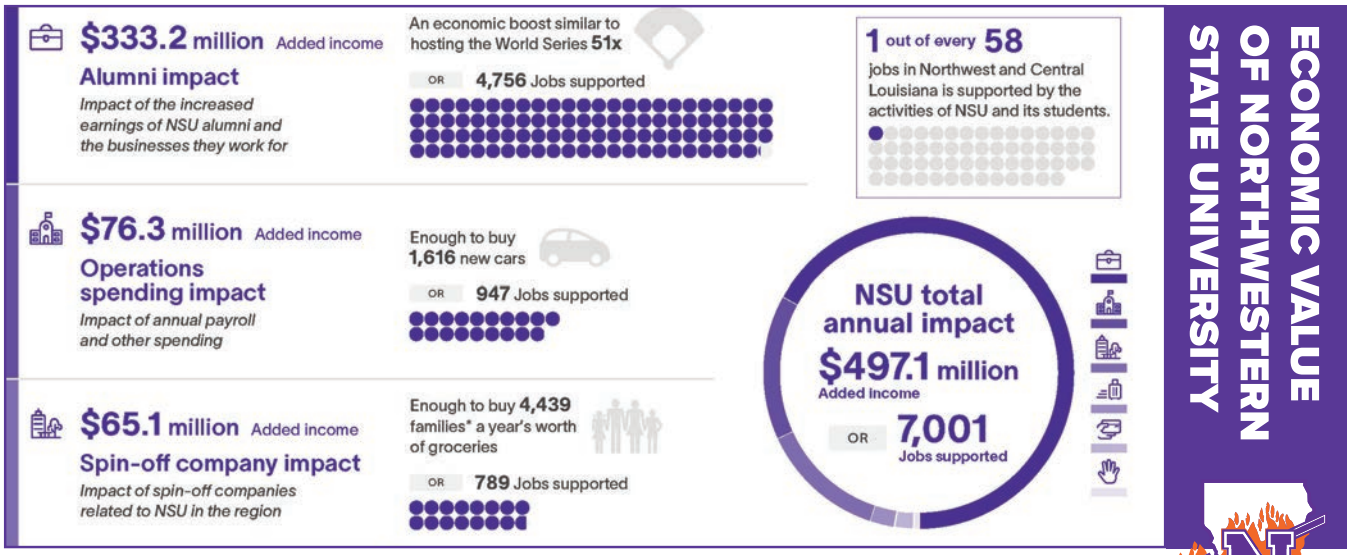
$333.2 million Added income
Alumni impact
Impact of the increased earnings of NSU alumni and the businesses they work for
An economic boost similar to hosting the World Series 51x
OR 4,756 Jobs supported
1 out of every 58
jobs in Northwest and Central Louisiana is supported by the activities of NSU and its students.
$76.3 million Added income
Operations spending impact
Impact of annual payroll and other spending
Enough to buy 1,616 new cars
OR 947 Jobs supported
$65.1 million Added income
Spin-off company impact
Impact of spin-off companies related to NSU in the region
Enough to buy 4,439 families* a year's worth of groceries
OR 789 Jobs supported
NSU total annual impact
$497.1 million
Added income
OR 7,001
Jobs supported
ECONOMIC VALUE OF NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

NSU drives $497 million in economic growth across region

Northwestern State University added nearly half a billion dollars to the economy in northwest and central Louisiana during the 2023 to 2024 fiscal year, according to a new study.

A new economic impact report shows how Northwestern continues to strengthen the region through jobs, student success and support for local businesses. Conducted by labor market analytics firm Lightcast, the study highlights a total economic impact of $497.1 million and more than 7,000 jobs supported across NSU's 10-parish service area.

The university's spending, research and daily operations created meaningful financial value. NSU generated $76.3 million in operating expenses and $65.1 million through businesses that formed because of its programs. Visitors contributed $11 million and students added another $9.3 million through local spending. Volunteer service led by the university was valued at $2.2 million. The biggest contributor came from alumni, whose careers added $333.2 million in regional income.

"NSU promotes economic growth in northwest and central Louisiana through its direct expenditures and the resulting expenditures of visitors, students and regional businesses," said NSU President Dr. James T. Genovese. "The university serves as an employer and buyer of goods and services for its day-to-day operations. Numerous spin-off companies have formed because of programs and knowledge at NSU. The university's reputation and activities attract visitors and students from outside northwest and central Louisiana whose expenditures benefit regional vendors."

The report also shows that NSU supports one in every 58 jobs in the region. These jobs span across healthcare, retail, hospitality and government sectors. Healthcare and social assistance lead the list with 1,286 jobs supported, followed by retail with 590 and food service with 441.

Students benefit directly from their education. On average, a bachelor's degree from NSU leads to $21,900 more in yearly earnings compared to those with only a high school diploma in Louisiana. That increase adds up over a lifetime and supports long-term financial stability.

Taxpayers also see a positive return. For every dollar invested in the university, taxpayers receive $1.60 in public value over the careers of graduates. Looking at the broader impact, society gains $8.30 in value for every dollar spent on the university. These benefits include stronger incomes, improved health outcomes and fewer costs tied to the justice system or public assistance programs.

NSU also builds stronger communities by encouraging service. Through volunteering and partnerships, students and employees help local organizations grow. The university provides a steady pipeline of trained professionals ready to work in fields that matter most to the region.

"NSU encourages its students and employees to volunteer in the community helping businesses and organizations grow," the report states. "In addition, NSU is a primary source of higher education to northwest and central Louisiana residents and a supplier of trained workers to regional industries, enhancing overall productivity in the regional workforce."

The study was based on data from NSU's financial and academic reports for 2023 to 2024, along with employment and census data from national sources. The results reflect real contributions happening now throughout Louisiana.

On the Cover: Safeties #1 Christian Williams and and #14 Je'Careon Lathan celebrated an interception during the Aug. 28 season opening football game vs. Alcorn State. The Demon victory ended a 20-game losing streak.

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Be Proud to be Purple! Wherever you are.

Students and student-athlete volunteers blanketed the city of Natchitoches with Northwestern State signage, flags, stickers and promotional items in advance of the Fall 2025 semester. City-wide, more than 100 businesses and residents joined the Proud to Be Purple Campaign as new and returning students and their families buzzed around town during Move-In weekend.

"Mayor Ronnie Williams and I had the honor of launching the 'Proud to Be Purple' campaign," said NSU President James Genovese. "We proudly distributed the first NSU branded materials at City Hall and continued discussions about future collaborations between the city and the university."

"Proud to Be Purple focuses on boosting school spirit and strengthening community partnerships through visual displays of support for NSU," said Amy Lee, director of Marketing and Branding. "We had the student athlete team members from football, baseball, women's basketball and volleyball helping out as well as student ambassadors."

"This is a wonderful reflection of our shared pride and the strong bond between NSU and the city of Natchitoches and we appreciate the collaborative efforts between NSU, Mayor Williams and his team, the Natchitoches Area Chamber of Commerce, the Cane River National Heritage Area and the Natchitoches Convention and Visitors Bureau," Genovese said.

Natchitoches Mayor Ronnie Williams and NSU President James Genovese placed the first Proud to Be Purple sign in front of City Hall.

You, too, can join the Proud to Be Purple campaign by wearing your NSU purple on Fridays to show support for Northwestern State, wherever you are.

To view a message from Genovese, visit **www.nsu.la/purple**.

Tarver family has long history at Northwestern State

NSU President James Genovese participated in the Sabine Parish Back to School Rally in August where he offered encouraging remarks to students, families and educators for the new academic year. A highlight of the event was meeting many proud NSU alumni and current and future students, including the Tarver brothers, whose family has a long history with Northwestern.

President James Genovese, Nicholas and William Tarver

Nicholas Tarver is a sophomore at NSU majoring in social work and his brother William is a freshman at Florien High School. Their parents are Alison and Andy Tarver. Andy attended Northwestern from 1990-92.

Their grandparents, Dr. Rick Tarver and Mary Beth Tarver, were high school sweethearts at Many and continued their education at Northwestern before their marriage in 1967. Mary Beth, known as MiMi to her grandchildren, taught math and science at Many High School from 1967- 1991 when she transferred to NSU's College of Business to teach in the Computer Information Systems department.

Rick Tarver (1970, 1993) interrupted his college career to join the National guard. He graduated from Fort Benning as a 2nd Lieutenant and retired after 25 years in the Guard. He then returned to NSU to complete bachelor's and master's degrees followed by a Ph.D. from the University of Southern Mississippi. He taught at Ebarb and Many Junior High, where he also coached football. Rick and Norm Fletcher were the voices of the NSU Demon football in the 1970s and 80s.

continued on next page

NSU choirs seek support for travel, performances, recruitment

NSU Choirs are launching a fundraising campaign to support recruitment and performance travels for the 2025-26 academic year.

"The NSU Choirs are incredible ambassadors for the university and continue to promote high quality artistry and exceptional musicianship. Students from across our region recognize the NSU Choirs as leaders in their field and promoters of the choral art," said Dr. Shane Thomas, director of Choral Activities.

This year, the NSU Chamber Choir has been selected to perform at the Louisiana American Choral Directors Association state conference in New Orleans Oct. 17.

"This incredible honor comes with a lofty price tag once charter bus rentals and hotel rooms for 32 students and three faculty are factored in," Thomas said.

Founded in 1987, the Chamber Choir is the flagship choral ensemble at NSU, made up of undergraduates from many different majors. The choir often collaborates with composers and conductors for projects. In 2021, the Chamber Choir placed in the top four of the Leonardo da Vinci Choral Competition in Florence, Italy. The Chamber Choir has also placed second in the Laurea Mundi Budapest in Budapest, Hungary, and second and Best Interpretation in the AVE VERUM ICC in Baden, Austria. In 2024, The Chamber Choir was invited to perform for the ACDA Southern Region conference in Louisville, Kentucky, as the only choir to represent the state of Louisiana.

NSU's comprehensive choral program includes five choral and vocal ensembles with over 150 participants. The NSU Choirs provide opportunities for international travel, significant touring and performances and experiences with pedagogical leaders in the field through guest artists and world-class performers.

Following the successful 2025 recruitment tour across western and southwestern Louisiana where the Chamber Choir visited 14 school programs and over 1,000 students, in January 2026 the Chamber Choir will be touring northeast, central and southeast Louisiana while collaborating with area high schools and collegiate programs.

The NSU Choirs are seeking to raise $20,000 for these recruitment and performance travel costs. Monies donated will go directly to charter bus rentals, hotel and food costs for each of these events.

"Your donation will provide the choral program the ability to continue to share all the wonderful things happening at NSU with the students and communities in Louisiana," Thomas said.

To make a contribution, visit www.**northwesternstatealumni.com/nsu-choir/**. Information on NSU Choirs is available at **www.nsula.edu/music/choirs/**.

Scan QR code with phone camera to make a contribution to NSU Choirs.

Tarver family *continued*

He joined NSU's College of Business faculty in 1997 and retired after 25 years of service to the university.

Rick's parents, Alva Louis Tarver and Carro Boydstun Tarver, were also NSU graduates when the school was known as Louisiana State Normal College. Carro, who was born in 1911, earned a teaching certificate and began teaching in Marco in 1932, rowing a boat across the river and walking to the two-room school. She completed her degree in upper elementary education in 1938. She later taught at Kisatchie where she met her husband, Alva. After their marriage, they moved to Fort Jesup and she paused teaching to raise her family until 1945 when, due to a shortage, she was persuaded to teach third grade at Many Elementary, a job she held for 26 years. Many more members of the Tarver family have been part of the Demon family over the decades.

Nicholas, a Dean's List student at NSU, has overcome the challenges of living with cerebral palsy, epilepsy and vision impairment to excel academically and has leadership experience serving with several philanthropies. As a high schooler, he qualified for junior nationals in the Louisiana GUMBO Games (Game Uniting Mind and Body) in javelin, discus and shotput. He was a 2023 recipient of Louisiana Public Broadcasting's Young Hero Award.

William is active in basketball and baseball.

Both are officers with the Fort Jesup chapter of National Society Children of the American Revolution.

Seven to be inducted into Long Purple Line

NSU will induct seven new members into its Alumni Hall of Distinction, the Long Purple Line as part of the annual Homecoming celebration Oct. 3-4. The inductees are Richard Keith Bergeron of New Roads, the late Robert Crew, Jacque Crew of Shreveport, Dr. Marcus Jones of Winnfield, Angela Lasyone and Lee Posey of Natchitoches and Christine "Chris" Weaver of Lafayette.

The inductees will be honored at a luncheon on Friday, Oct. 3 at noon at the Natchitoches Events Center. Tickets are available at https://northwesternstatealumni.com/long-purple-line-2025/.

Northwestern has honored 159 alumni with induction into the Long Purple Line.

Read more about each of this year's inductees at https://nsu.la/LPL2025.

For most up to date event information scan QR or visit: www.nsu.la/homecoming

The City of Natchitoches will host the 2025 Classic Car Show downtown Friday, Oct. 3-Saturday, Oct. 4. https://natchitochescarshow.com/

Natchitoches Central High School will play their Homecoming game in Turpin Stadium Friday, Oct. 3.

These events necessitated changes to the traditional Homecoming schedule.

Please check www.northwesternstatealumni.com for updates as some times and locations are subject to change.

FRIDAY, OCT. 3

8 a.m. - Demon Brothers Golf Tournament, Northwestern Hills

Noon - Long Purple Line Luncheon and Induction Program, Natchitoches Events Center

6 p.m.- Concert at Seven Oaks Stage

8 p.m. - Bring Back the Cove – One Night Only at Mariner's
https://homecoming-cove.eventbrite.com

SATURDAY, OCT. 4

9 a.m. - Demon Brothers Tailgate

10 a.m. - N-Club Hall of Fame Induction, Magale Recital Hall

10:30 a.m. - Reception for College of Education & Human Development Hall of Distinguished Educators, Teacher Education Center Commons

11 a.m. - Induction program, Middle Lab Auditorium

2 p.m. - Homecoming Parade on Campus
The parade will start at NSU Elementary Lab and end at the tailgate field for a pep rally.

3-5:30 p.m. - NSU Alumni Association Tailgate, Collins Family Pavilion

4-6 p.m. - 76th Demon Battalion/NSU Demon Regiment Tailgate, Noe Armory

5:30 p.m. - Pregame Show, Turpin Stadium

6 p.m. - NSU vs. East Texas A&M kick off

7:30 p.m. - Presentation of Homecoming Honor Court

Post-Game: Demon Brothers After Party featuring live music with Deep Water Horizon

Some Natchitoches restaurants will offer extended hours during Homecoming weekend. Check with each business before making plans.

PEOPLE WE'RE TALKING ABOUT...

LU DELL JEFFERS *LULING, TEXAS*

Julia Lu Dell Jeffers of Luling, Texas, celebrated her 90th birthday on July 21. She was feted with a celebration with friends and family July 19.

Jeffers graduated from Northwestern State College in January 1957 with a degree in journalism and English and a minor in history. As a student, she was a member of Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, the NSC band and Purple Jackets as was managing editor of the Current Sauce her senior year. As a freshman, she was a resident of Agnes Morris Hall and is still close to her freshman roommate,

Jeffers was born in Luling but moved to Vinton at age two when her father transferred there with Gulf Oil. She grew up in Vinton and graduated from Vinton High School in 1953. After graduating from Northwestern, she taught English and journalism at Iowa High school for 2-1/2 before moving back to Vinton where she began a 25-year tenure at The Vinton News. During this time, she was also the Vinton News contributor to the Orange (Texas) Leader and worked two years for the Louisiana Tourism Commission.

Jeffers moved back to Luling in the early 1990s to care for her aunt and continues to reside there. Over the years, she provided childcare to many families, her "children" now in their 20s and 30s, who still keep in touch with her. Although she never had children of her own, she considers them family.

Jeffers' own family included her parents, two older brothers and a younger sister. She has two nephews, five nieces and numerous great and great-great nieces and nephews.

She is still active in several committees at First United Methodist Church, Luling, and volunteers weekly with the Genealogical Society at the Luling Library.

NSU staff were honored to contribute to her celebration by offering a certificate of congratulations from the Department of New Media, Journalism and Communication Arts and gifts from the Office of the Alumni and Development and the Spirit of Northwestern Demon Marching Band.

Lu Dell is pictured 4th from right in above Current Sauce yearbook photo.

THOMAS & VICKY NEWSOM *PITTSBURG, KANSAS*

Thomas Newsom was welcomed as the new president of Pittsburg State University in Pittsburg, Kansas in July. Prior to being named president at Pitt State, Newsom served as president at Southeastern Oklahoma. He once owned a community newspaper and was former NSU Sports Information Director Doug Ireland's first assistant in the SID office.

Newsom's wife Vicky Sims Newsom (1992) is a native of London and an elementary school teacher. As a member of NSU's tennis team, she set the university's all-time singles victory record (67-19) and capped her career by winning Southland Conference's No. 2 singles crown, her third SLC title in four years

She earned a Bachelor's in business administration at Northwestern State and a Master's in sports management from Baylor University. She also earned a Master's in curriculum and instruction from Southeastern Oklahoma.

Vicky Newsom was inducted into NSUs N-Club Hall of Fame in 2011.

A native of Sherman, Texas, Newsom earned a doctorate in higher education administration from the University of North Texas, a Master's in higher education from A&M-Commerce, and a Bachelor's in business administration from Austin College.

They are parents of three adult children, Katie, Will and John.

Thomas & Vicky Newsom

From small town to global impact, Kip Patrick keeps paying it forward

Kip Patrick

Far from his roots in Converse, Kip Patrick is a world traveler who's written or been quoted for Wired, National Geographic, CNN and Men's Journal, among others. After earning a degree in journalism at NSU in 1995, he worked in media and communications in Washington, D.C., New York and Miami, before he and his wife Liz, whom he married in 2008, flew from D.C. to the Philippines for a year-long around-the-world adventure. During their travels, they sought volunteer opportunities along the way which led to the creation of the 1 of 7 initiative, which encourages individuals to spend 1 day per week paying it forward in some way. He and Liz now have two children.

As a student, Kip was involved in student media, student government and held membership in several honor societies. He has remained engaged with the university over the years by serving three terms on the Alumni Association board, speaking at New Student Convocation and introducing students to the 1 of 7 initiative, which has become an important component of Demon Days welcome week activities.

Earlier this year, Kip was named vice president of the World Bank, an international development organization owned by 189 countries.

Kip took time to visit with NSU recently to discuss his work, his experience living abroad with his family and how prioritizing service and volunteering has impacted his life and career. The conversation has been edited and condensed for clarity.

Where are you now based?

I'm currently living and working remotely in Valencia, Spain, though we're planning to move soon to Grand Junction, Colorado, to be closer to my wife's family and mine in Sabine Parish. It will be a big change, trading the Mediterranean for the Rockies, but we're looking forward to being back home.

Can you talk about what the World Bank does and your role there?

The World Bank's core mission is ending poverty and improving people's lives and livelihoods. My specific role is with the Global Financing Facility, which helps developing countries improve the health of women and children. It's fun, fulfilling work. We're essentially helping countries invest in their most precious resources: their people. I get to tell the stories of programs that are literally saving lives and building healthier futures.

What are your day-to-day tasks?

My role varies a lot, which is one of the things I like most about communications. It's never boring. One day, I'm interviewing a mother in Nigeria whose baby was saved through one of our programs, the next I'm on a conference call across three continents building out a new program strategy, the next I'm writing a speech for an executive or government official.

How has your NSU education helped?

My NSU education gave me a solid foundation to build my career on. Working as a writer and editor for the NSU newspaper taught me how to write, build a story and meet deadlines. Serving in student government and working on group class projects taught me how to work with people and manage different perspectives, which is essential when you're coordinating with teams across cultures and time zones. But what probably made the biggest difference were professors who genuinely cared about our success, like my advisor Tommy Whitehead and former journalism professor Steve Horton. They didn't just teach theory – they mentored us and pushed us to be better storytellers and critical thinkers. I can still clearly remember sitting in Tommy's office in Kyser Hall my senior year, sending out resume after resume until I finally secured an internship with a major public relations firm in Washington, D.C. I wouldn't be where I am today without NSU.

Tell me about your family and living abroad.

I've always loved to travel, and luckily my wife Liz is the same – we've lost track of how many countries we've gotten to visit together. Early in our marriage I once suggested we consider having a kid or maybe instead quit our jobs and travel for a year or two. Six months later unemployed in a jungle in Borneo, she told me that was one of the best...and easiest...decisions she's made. We've tried to instill that travel bug in our kids. One of the coolest things about living in Europe has been how close it is to so many other places. One example, the kids were studying ancient Egypt in school, so we booked a cheap flight to Cairo to see the pyramids. Not something we're able to do every day, but it's much more doable when you're so close.

Serving others has always been a priority for you…can you talk about that and how it has impacted your life and career?

Thanks mostly to my awesome parents Larry and Paula and a lot of time at Fellowship Baptist Church in Converse, I was taught that being nice and helping others should be a priority. That's stuck with me, even after much of my southern drawl has slipped away.

After a stint in the corporate world in New York, Washington, D.C., and Miami, I've been lucky to find jobs for organizations more aligned with those childhood lessons, whether it's getting kids in the U.S. more nutritious food or helping mothers in Nigeria get access to clean water and medical care. That philosophy has flowed into other parts of my life as well. When my wife and I took a year off to travel, we volunteered at least once per week wherever we went. we practiced English with monks in Laos, painted schools in Uganda, picked up trash in Borneo and distributed shoes in El Salvador. We've learned that there's always something we can do to help out if we take the time to look.

You've had a long career in communications, public affairs and advocacy…what do you think is on the horizon for you?

That's a tough one. We're living through a time of massive change, particularly with the arrival of artificial intelligence. AI is going to rewrite a lot of professions, including communications. I'm working on ways to help people, especially students, better understand and prepare for what's coming, while continuing to help well-meaning organizations do their work better, whether they're in rural Africa or closer to home in the U.S.

Mignona Cote earns top professional honor, reflects on career

With more than three decades of experience in information security, risk management, compliance and auditing, Northwestern State University alumna Mignona Cote of Natchitoches has been selected for the 2025 CSO (Chief Security Officer) Hall of Fame, an honor that spotlights security leaders who have significantly contributed to advancing information risk management and security. Inductees exemplify the qualities of leadership and excellence and contribute to improving security across all organizations.

Cote is currently the Senior Vice President/Chief Information Security Officer at Infor – an operating company of Koch Industries – where she focuses on security for SAAS products, showcasing the significance for today's rapid advancements in the cloud. Under her leadership, her team protects corporations worldwide on how they operate their companies.

Cote was born in Natchitoches and attended Natchitoches Central High School. She earned two degrees from Northwestern State, a Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Systems in December 1985 and a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish in May 1986. At NSU, she was a member of Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority and Purple Jackets. She began her career as an IT auditor for the City of Shreveport, then was recruited to Dallas for a management training program with Comerica Bank. Since then, she has become a world leader in multi-cloud security, building solutions in high-tech, healthcare, insurance and large financial institutions.

Cote took time to visit her alma mater and talk about her journey from Natchitoches to a C suite position leading a team that helps Fortune 500 companies ensure the security of their data, including such well-known brands as AWS, AIG, Aetna, Bank of America, PepsiCo, NetApp and Verizon Communications.

The conversation has been edited for clarity.

Did you have any specific mentors or impactful experiences at NSU that you'd like to share?

Truman Maynard, owner Don Theatres/ Parkway Cinemas and a retired Army pilot from Natchitoches and NSU, hired me into my first leadership role, manager of Don Theatre, and always told me women make better leaders. I have my first letter where he gave me a raise from $4 per hour to $4.25 per hour.

Coach Buddy Bonnette at NSU…I had always felt non-athletic and yet Coach Bonnette found my sporting superpower in swimming. He spent time with me teaching me to be a lifeguard and trusting me to save lives of others. He was stern and disciplined, though, and gave me a confidence I never did have.

As for an impactful experience: although I did not realize it at the time, I was an early female "computer person," with NSU giving me the opportunities to gain insight into early technology innovations.

My Dad, Mom, and two sisters all went to NSU.

Can you talk about how your industry has changed with the rapid advancement of technology? What do you see on the horizon?

Cybersecurity keeps changing, with the rapid growth of adversarial activities including cybercrime, with the estimated cost of losses forecasted to reach $10.5 trillion by 2026. With the geopolitical risks, advancement of technology, and the global economy, I have been on a continual fast-track to stay ahead of the curve – today being interviewed by Gartner on hot topics, last week being recorded for a podcast.

The industry has definitely changed, as I recall hitting the transmit button in the NSU data center too many times causing a mainframe to shut down, compared to now, seeing automation in everything I touch and use – from Alexa managing my day, to AI managing security threats at work.

On the horizon, I foresee the technologies merging using AI to build seamless security solutions. Paying close attention to how to thwart AI-based attacks by using AI. Cryptocurrency and quantum computing will all require advanced security techniques.

It's interesting you earned a degree in Spanish…has that been a help in the business world?

Mignona Cote

It certainly has. With Spanish as the fourth-largest spoken language and the surge in Hispanic economic growth, when speaking in Spanish, I instantly gain respect with international partners. I have worked in Colombia, Venezuela, Spain, Brazil (Portuguese) and the Dominican Republic. I have had international teams reporting to me.

Aside from your profession, what endeavors are important to you?

I am engaged in growing our next generation talent. I founded CyberBytes with an organization called T200 (empowering women leaders) to grow cyber talent.

On a personal side, I enjoy spending time with my mom. I am documenting old family recipes and taking notes on our heritage which is richly engrained in the south. I also enjoy pampering my niece.

Cote and fellow honorees, including those from McDonald's, Mastercard, Booking.com and elsewhere, will be recognized at the CSO Conference and Awards Oct. 20-22 in Indian Wells, California. The CSO Hall of Fame is sponsored by Foundry, owner of tech media brands such as CIO, CSO, Network World, InfoWorld, PC World and Macworld. More information about the award is available here.

> "Although I did not realize it at the time, I was an early female 'computer person,' with NSU giving me the opportunities to gain insight into early technology innovations." – MIGNONA COTE

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR
NSU Foundation Officers

Wes Breeden:

"NSU has given me so much that it will take me 10 lifetimes of giving back just to get back to even."

Wes Breeden (2003) has served on NSU's Foundation Board of Directors since 2016, including chairing the fund raising committee, and the Pi Kappa Phi Foundation since 2020.

Professionally, he is executive vice president of Field Strategy and Distribution for Association Member Benefits Advisors. While Wes started his nearly 21-year career with AMBA in Colorado, he has spent most of his career in the Pacific Northwest and southeast, helping the company build many of its sales and marketing teams from the ground up. In his current position, Wes focuses on making the AMBA sales experience the best sales opportunity in the industry for our team members.

Believing in giving back to those who have invested so much in him, Wes spends his free time volunteering with college students across the country, helping them hone their organizational, motivational and leadership abilities. For his time, Wes has received numerous national and local awards.

When not at work or volunteering, you can find Wes on his family's farm in Pride, kicking a soccer ball or building projects with his 11-year-old daughter, Mabyn, in their home in New Orleans.

What is your motivation for support the Foundation and its mission?
My time at Northwestern State was so pivotal to my success as an adult that I want to ensure future Demons have the same opportunity, if not better. NSU has given me so much that it will take me 10 lifetimes of giving back just to get back to even.

What is your most special memory of NSU?
As a freshman, two friends and I started a local fraternity that we grew and eventually chartered as Pi Kappa Phi. It allowed us to bring back NSU's oldest fraternity. The memories we built and the life lessons we learned together made a significant impact on my life.

What are your hobbies or special interests?
Watching my daughter perform on the theater stage or soccer pitch, teaching lessons on life and leadership to college students, and improving my photography skills.

Describe yourself in one word.
Driven

Jo Pease:

"NSU gave me an opportunity to pursue many opportunities that would otherwise have not been an option for me."

A native of Springhill and current Houston resident, Barbara Jo Pease has been a devoted supporter of NSU for decades, holding many offices with the NSU Foundation Board and its committees, lending her expertise in business and management to advance the university and its mission. She is a member of NSU's Long Purple Line, among other honors

Pease earned a degree in accounting in 1973 and an MBA at Yale University and was the chief ethics and compliance officer for Shell in the United States until her retirement in 2007, after which she started a consulting business that was active until 2020.

As an undergraduate, Pease and two friends created the Louisiana Youth Seminar, a progressive leadership camp for Louisiana high schoolers, which continues to be a priority for her. She has also poured much of her energy into youth STEM initiatives, Catholic education and philanthropies and leadership development for women in business.

What are some community projects or organizations that you are involved with?
I just moved back to Houston in January, so since then I have focused on Louisiana Youth Seminar as well as NSU. While I was in New Orleans, I focused on the Greater New Orleans STEM Initiative and and Ben Franklin High School robotics.

What's your most memorable experience at NSU?
I have so many memories of NSU, from being selected as a

continued on next page

Foundation invests in NSU community's financial success

The NSU Foundation is sponsoring an opportunity for the NSU community to learn how to budget, pay off debt, invest wisely and take control of finances by offering a Dave Ramsey Personal Finance Course. The course, which is designed to help individuals and families get out of debt and build wealth, will be open to students, faculty and staff this academic year, free of charge.

"College is a crucial time for students to build healthy financial habits that can shape their future, avoid debt, make smart decisions and feel confident about money," said Vice President for the Student Experience and Dean of Students Reatha Cox. "Whether navigating student loans, planning for the future or looking to improve spending habits and work from a budget, this course offers practical, proven tools to take control of finances."

Data shows that money problems are the number one reason students drop out of college. The Dave Ramsey personal finance curriculum focuses on real-world financial literacy including budgeting, saving, investing, debt management, insurance and taxes, college and career planning and retirement planning. Administrators say that investing in a strong financial literacy program will encourage students to adopt sound financial habits that will help keep them in school and out of money troubles after graduation.

"The Dave Ramsey Personal Finance Course provides a foundational life skill that is necessary to develop appropriate financial literacy," said Tommy Wright, president of the NSU Foundation Board. "Our pre-college education system unfortunately does not provide these basic life skills which are so very much needed to develop healthy financial habits. We believe that this course will be a game changer for those who decide to enroll. We are pleased to be able to provide this opportunity to our NSU community."

"Participating in the personal finance course is more than just learning how to budget for college. It's about gaining lifelong

financial confidence and an investment in your future. I hope all faculty, staff and students take advantage of the opportunity," said Laurie Morrow, NSU's executive director of Economic Development and University Advancement and director of the NSU Foundation. "This initiative speaks volumes about how much our foundation recognizes the importance of financial literacy.

"Understanding how to manage money is one of the most empowering skills, yet it's something many people never formally learn. Thanks to the NSU Foundation's generous support, the Dave Ramsey Foundations in Personal Finance course will give our students, faculty and staff a solid foundation in developing these skills," Morrow said.

> "College is a crucial time for students to build healthy financial habits that can shape their future, avoid debt, make smart decisions and feel confident about money."
> – REATHA COX
> *NSU Vice President for the Student Experience and Dean of Students*

Jo Pease *continued*

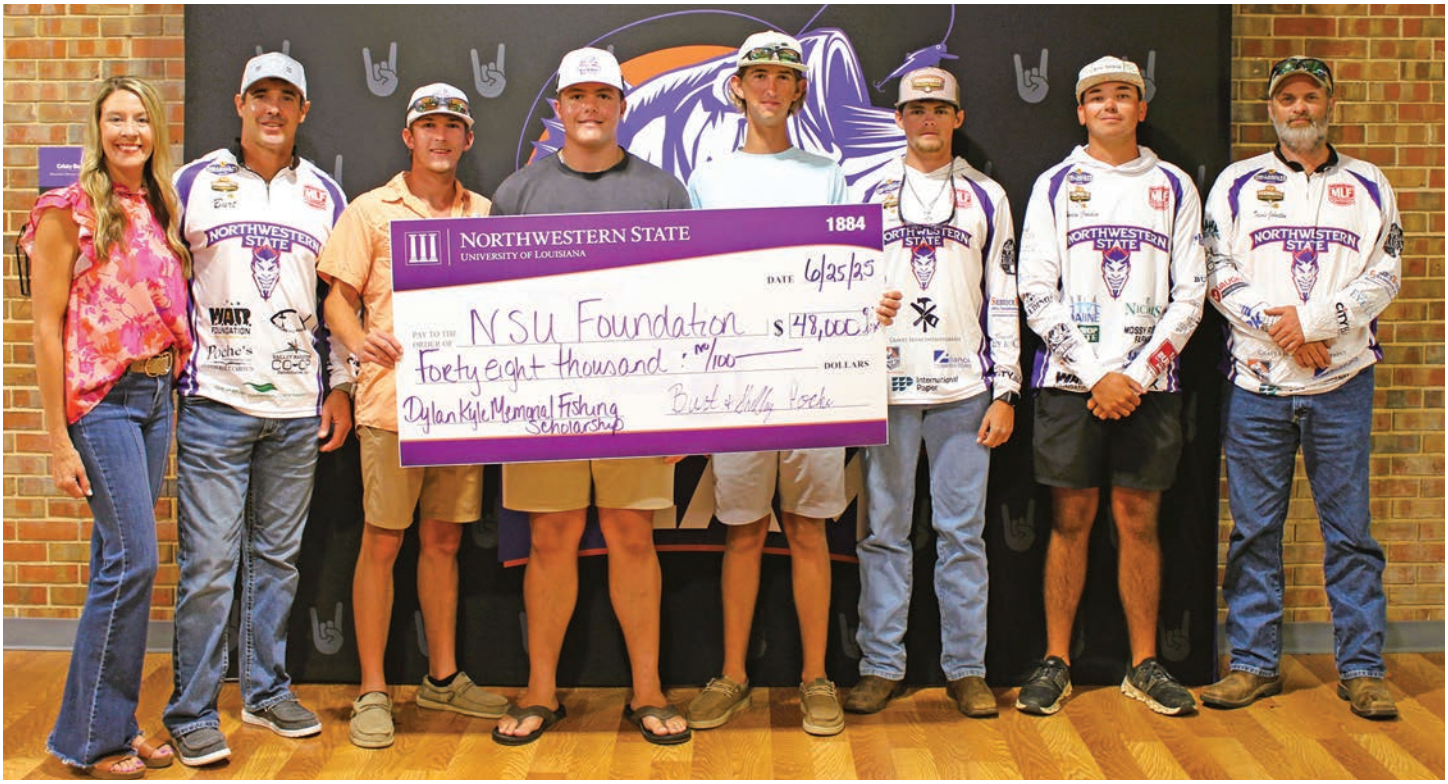
cheerleader as a freshman to serving all four years on Student Government as class treasurer to serving as treasurer and then president of the Student Activities Board to being an active member of Sigma Kappa Sorority. In my accounting classes, I remember being one of only three females in a class of 30. At NSU, I met several friends who are still my very close friends today.

What drives you to support Northwestern State?
Neither of my parents went to college so I am a first-generation college graduate. NSU gave me an opportunity to pursue many opportunities that would otherwise have not been an option for me. In high school and college, I had a few people who mentored me at critical points in my life and that also made all of the difference. I am a strong believer in giving back as I have been blessed. I give back to NSU because I strongly believe that they offer an opportunity to young people in Louisiana who might not have other options.

What are your hobbies/interests?
My passion in life is leadership development of young high school leaders through their attendance at Louisiana Youth Seminar. My two cofounders left in year 10 and LYS today is 55 years old. I have led LYS all of these years. I also work with my husband in mentoring high school robotics teams, who compete globally in robotics as a sport through competition in an organization called FIRST.

What are you most proud of, personally or professionally?
I am most proud of my journey through life, which has focused on balancing my 30-year corporate career and my commitment to Louisiana Youth Seminar and my relationships with my husband and stepchildren and friends. Balancing all has not been easy at times, but it is the balance of ALL that I am most proud of.

Can you describe yourself in one word?
Persistent. I don't give up.



Three freshman anglers were awarded Dylan Kyle Poche Scholarships. Attending this year's scholarship presentation were, from left, Shelley Poche, Burt Poche, Landon Watts, Josiah Shockley, Braxton Speyrer and members of the NSU Bass Fishing Team Caleb Johnston, Dawson Cowden and Travis Johnston.

Incoming NSU anglers awarded Dylan Kyle Poche scholarships

Three incoming Northwestern State University freshmen were named recipients of Dylan Kyle Poche Memorial Fishing Scholarship. Braxton Speyrer, Landon Watts and Josiah Shockley will be a part of the university's bass fishing team and will compete in FLW, B.A.S.S. and Collegiate Bass circuits.

Funds for the annual scholarships are generated through the Dylan Kyle Poche Memorial Fishing Tournament, held each year at Toledo Bend Reservoir, with a large portion also donated to the Fishing Team to defray expenses incurred with travel and competition. This year's tournament held a record high of over 340 teams participating with the Poches donating a total of $48,000 to NSU.

The Dylan Kyle Poche Memorial Fishing Scholarship was established by Poche's parents, Burt and Shelley Poche, to help others who share the same passion for fishing to achieve their goals while doing what they love. Poche was a 2015 graduate of Natchitoches Central High School and an avid outdoorsman. He excelled at tournament fishing and was a member of the NCHS Fishing Team and the NSU Fishing Team as a freshman. The 2026 tournament will be held on March 28.

Information on the NSU Fishing Team is available at **Facebook.com/NSULA BassFishing**.

THE NSU FOUNDATION WOULD LIKE TO ANNOUNCE THE FOLLOWING NEWLY ESTABLISHED SCHOLARSHIP.

Lola Dunahoe Endowed Chair for Eminent Scholars
https://northwesternstatealumni.com/dunahoe-chair/

Lawrence J. & Viola M Raleigh Hospitality
https://northwesternstatealumni.com/raleigh-scholarship/

Ken Green Scholarship
https://northwesternstatealumni.com/green-scholarship/

NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY
FOUNDATION
NATCHITOCHES, LOUISIANA

WAYS TO GIVE
NSU.LA/GIVE

The Natchitoches-Northwestern Symphony Society announced increased support for NSU orchestra students with a commitment of $30,000 for music student scholarships. Celebrating the announcement are, seated from left, Director of Orchestral Activities Douglas Bakenhus, NSU President James Genovese and Marion Johnston, NNSS president. On the second row from left are Juliana Miller Natalie Hyde, Perla Hipp, Fernanda Morales, José Mario Villeda, Maira Avellaneda Pabon, Meredith Corrales, Abigail Williams, Na'Riaya Sowell, Gabrielle Meziere, Ja'Nia Wallace, Jessyca Ludwig and Syll-Young Olson, assistant musical director. On the third row are Emilio Alveto Castro Lopez, Norman Martinez, Salome Uibe-Cardona, Santiago Rovira Ortiz, Aill Harris, Jonathan Chaparro, Zavion Sowell, Oscar Carballo and Scott Burrell, director of NSU's Dear School of Creative and Performing Arts. On the back row are Carlos Diaz del Valle, Emma Velton, Ronald Zaldana, Brad Powell, William Shupak and Josias Ramos. Not pictured are Cecilia Smith, NNSS secretary; Gayle Howell NNSS treasurer, and Mary Lou Brown, NNSS president-elect.

Symphony Society supports scholarships for NSU music students

The Natchitoches-Northwestern Symphony Society announced the allocation of $30,000 in scholarship funds aimed at supporting string players in their musical pursuits.

"This initiative, designed to provide financial assistance to students aspiring to hone their craft, is part of the broader commitment to fostering the next generation of musicians," said Marion Johnston, NNSS president. "For the spring 2025 semester, 26 orchestral musicians received scholarships."

The Symphony Society also revealed that it has amended its mission statement to expand its scholarship offerings. Initially focused on string instruments, the mission statement now includes additional funding for students of other orchestral instruments, allowing students broader access to music education.

"The expansion of our scholarship program reflects the evolving needs of our orchestra approach and our commitment to nurturing musical talent in every form," Johnston said. "We are proud of our ability to offer financial support to a wider range of students, ensuring that talent, not financial means, is the only barrier to pursuing a career in music."

The scholarship funds are made possible by the generosity and dedication of the NNSW's 200+ loyal members, whose ongoing support has been integral to the success of its mission. As a nonprofit organization, the society relies on contributions from its members and patrons to continue its work, and this latest scholarship initiative highlights the direct impact of their investment in the arts.

The scholarships are for students who demonstrate exceptional skill and passion for their craft with funds awarded based on merit, with an emphasis on academic achievement, artistic potential and financial need.

The NNSS scholarships provide opportunities for young musicians to continue their studies, participate in student workshops and perform with ensembles. With the additional focus on other orchestral instruments, the society is confident that this expanded initiative will contribute to the continued growth and diversity of the region's music community, Johnston said.

For information on the Natchitoches-Northwestern Symphony Society, visit **www.nnssla.org**.

NATCHITOCHES-NORTHWESTERN SYMPHONY

Representatives from Natchitoches Parish schools joined NSU administrators and Jim Rhodes, chair of the Cane River Waterway Commission to announce two scholarships totaling $200,000.From left are Lakeview Jr./Sr. High School Principal Chase Stepp, Natchitoches Central High School Principal Micah Coleman, Dr. Fran Lemoine, dean of NSU's College of Arts and Sciences; NSU President Dr. James Genovese, Rhodes, Natchitoches Parish School Board President Reba Phelps, St. Mary's Principal Stephen Wren and St. Mary's Director of Student Services Christie Griffin.

CRWC scholarships will support Natchitoches Parish students seeking careers in biology, life sciences and conservation

The Cane River Waterway Commission presented a donation of $200,000 to the Northwestern State University Foundation earmarked for scholarships to help Natchitoches Parish students earn undergraduate and graduate degrees in biology, life sciences and related programs.

The donation creates the CRWC Endowed Scholarship for Undergraduates and the CRWC Endowed Graduate Assistantship. The proposals were unanimously approved by the Commission Board during a July 15 meeting. Cane River Waterway Commission Chair James Rhodes worked with Dr. Chris Lyles, director of NSU's School of STEM, and administrators in NSU's College of Arts and Sciences to formalize the agreement. Rhodes said he hopes the Commission will be able to fund a third scholarship next year.

The undergraduate scholarship is a need-based award that will go to students majoring in biology with a concentration in wildlife and conservation or agribusiness and have a demonstrated interest in Cane River.

"The targeted concentrations are deeply relevant to the agricultural, ecological and economic landscape of the Cane River region," according to the scholarship proposal. Students supported by the fund will participate in field-based coursework and projects related to wildlife, conservation and agriculture. Students will also engage in a wildlife management practicum as well as a capstone course that will focus on the interests of the CRWC.

The CRWC Graduate Assistantship will benefit a student pursuing a Master of Science in STEM with a concentration in environmental science or integrative biology. The competitive fellowship will provide tuition and research funding support for a graduate student who will contribute directly to applied research and project development that will be of interest to the CRWC.

In exchange for financial support, the Commission will gain valuable, data-driven research tailored to its priorities. Project deliverables will support CRWC's public engagement and initiatives. The partnership will also foster a pipeline of skilled professionals prepared to serve regional environmental and conservation efforts, administrators said.

"I'd like to see this as a catalyst, through our partnership, to get other businesses involved," Rhodes said. "We need other members of the community to step up."

NSU President James Genovese said the partnership with the Cane River Waterway Commission is an example of how groups work together to identify and develop opportunities that support students.

"They set up a scholarship through the School of STEM, the College of Arts and Sciences and the biology department where they can get students involved with what we do that involves the water, Cane River. It's very impressive. They pushed the needle and there's the success and we're forever grateful," Genovese said.

"The Cane River Waterway Commission plays a key role in preserving one of Louisiana's most important cultural and ecological resources," Lyles said. "This scholarship will help support students who are learning how to conserve this valuable resource and cultivate a future workforce invested in the health and sustainability of the region."

Information on the Cane River Waterway Commission is available at **https://crwcla.com/**.

Information on the NSU Foundation is available at **www.northwesternstatealumni.com**.

Family scholarship honors Joe and Margaret Pierson

The family of Mrs. Margie Pierson marked her 98th birthday by gathering to announce a scholarship to support Northwestern State University students. The Pierson family made a $10,000 contribution to the NSU Foundation to establish the Joe and Margaret Pierson Family Scholarship.

"We thought it would be the perfect opportunity to establish the scholarship since Joe and Margaret and all four of their children and many grandchildren are NSU graduates," said Dr. Pat Pierson, daughter-in-law and a former NSU coach, teacher and administrator.

Margaret Helen Barnes Pierson was born to Bert and Margaret Barnes at Belena Plantation April 3, 1927, during the Great Mississippi River Flood of 1927. Her father was a farmer. She graduated from Ferriday High School and attended Louisiana State Normal College which was renamed Northwestern State College while she was a student there. She majored in business education and upon graduation taught her first year at Logansport High School.

Margaret met Joe H. Pierson, Sr. after he returned to NSC and Natchitoches following service in the Navy during World War II. After their graduation, they married in 1948 and started a family in Natchitoches. Over the years, Mrs. Pierson was involved with the Service League of Natchitoches, St. Denis Garden Club and First United Methodist Church, where she was responsible for the altar flowers for over 50 years. She spent many years teaching flower arranging classes and serving as a flower show judge. Her love for flowers has been a passion in her adult life. She also loved preparing gourmet meals and entertaining friends and family. She and Joe were named Natchitoches Treasures in 2010.

The Pierson family gathered to celebrate the 98th birthday of Mrs. Margie Pierson, seated, and surprised her by announcing the Joe and Margaret Pierson Family Scholarship. Standing from left are Coach Mike McConathy representing the NSU Foundation, Susan Pierson Berndt, Barry Berndt, Ruth Pierson Cleland, Joe Pierson Jr., Pat Pierson and Lynn Pierson.

"Since NSU has been a central part of the life of this family, it is fitting that the Joe and Margaret Pierson Family establish a scholarship in their names. It is their hope that future students can also benefit from the wonderful education and experiences that the Pierson family has received there," Pat Pierson said.

AANA names O'Con Clinical Instructor of the Year

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) C. David O'Con, (1996) of Natchitoches was named Clinical Instructor of the Year by the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology during the organization's annual congress in Nashville in August. The award honors individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the clinical education of Registered Resident Nurse Anesthetists (RRNAs), also known as student registered nurse anesthetists. The award recognizes the individual's commitment to the profession of nurse anesthesiology and to the advancement of educational standards that further the art and science of anesthesiology and result in high-quality patient care.

With more than 25 years of experience, O'Con blends clinical expertise with a student-centered approach to teaching. He is the only CRNA graduate of an acute surgical pain fellowship practicing in Louisiana and uses this advanced training in his dual roles as Chief CRNA and site coordinator at Natchitoches Regional Medical Center.

O'Con is known for his dedication to going above and beyond for his students, setting high expectations for what a clinical instructor should be. He offers lectures on regional anesthesia during their didactic phase, often on his own time and at his own expense. He has developed original classroom materials to supplement his lectures and enhance student understanding.

David O'Con

Beyond his contributions to the education of Louisiana RRNAs, O'Con currently serves as president of the Louisiana Association of Nurse Anesthesiology (LANA), having previously held various roles on its Board of Directors. He continues to work as a practicing CRNA at NRMC.

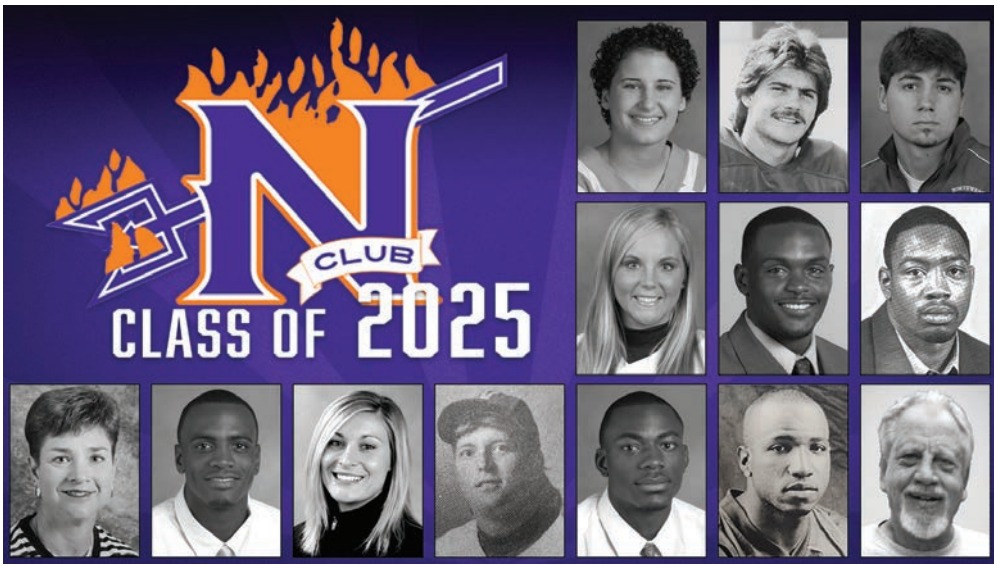
O'Con received both his Doctor of Nursing Practice and Master of Health Science in Nurse Anesthesia degrees from Texas Wesleyan University in Fort Worth, Texas. He completed a fellowship in acute surgical pain at Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia in Madison, Tennessee.

NSU announces 2025 N-Club Hall of Fame induction class

A four-time All-American, several Southland Conference champions and two members of a team responsible for the most iconic moment in Northwestern State athletics' history highlight the 2025 N-Club Hall of Fame class.

The 13-member group, which was chosen through a combination of a public vote of Northwestern letterwinners and a selection committee, will be honored during a 10 a.m. induction ceremony October 4.

Cody Fillinich, a four-time All-American in the javelin, leads a class that spans seven Northwestern sports. Three Demon football players – punter Mike Crow, running back Derrick Johnese and wide receiver/return specialist Toby Zeigler – and three Demon men's basketball players – guards Josh Hancock, Tyrone Mitchell and Jermaine Wallace – will give their programs multiple inductees.



Softball also is represented by multiple inductees – pitcher Amanda Glenn and coach Gay McNutt.

Amanda Bennett (women's basketball), Heather Penico (soccer) and David Reynolds (baseball) complete the competitive-ballot selections. Layne Miller, a former Demon baseball player whose constant support has endeared him to generations of student-athletes and coaches, was named the Distinguished Service Award honoree.

For full bios of each honoree, visit **https://nsu.la/NClub2025**.

Demons double up Alcorn State to emphatically snap skid

When a team has gone more than 1,000 days between victories, what difference does another hour-plus make?

The Northwestern State football team exploded out of the gates in its 2025 season opener against Alcorn State Aug. 28 only to see its momentum momentarily delayed by a lightning delay that lasted longer than an hour.

Still, the Demons delivered the type of tough-minded performance second-year head coach Blaine McCorkle sought as Northwestern doubled up the visiting Braves, 20-10, to snap a 20-game losing streak.

"I don't think I've ever seen a team and a campus and a city as in need of a win as this football team, this university and Natchitoches did," McCorkle said. "It allows everybody to take a sigh of relief and lets people know that this football program, this city and this campus loves so much is alive and well, and we're going to be A-OK. A new day's coming."

Northwestern earned its first season-opening win since 2013 and its first victory overall since Nov. 5, 2022, by demonstrating its toughness – especially in the second half.

That toughness allowed the Demons to end a 20-game losing streak that covered 1,027 days between victories, and it flipped over because of a defense that surrendered only three points to a Braves team that averaged 24.4 points against FCS competition a season ago.

Head Coach Blaine McCorkle was doused in Gatorade as players and fans celebrated the skid-breaking win Aug. 28.

Raising spirits, raising funds, Demon Brothers grow support for football program

The Demon Brothers Booster Club contributed $88,000 to the NSU football program over the past six months. Donations enabled the group to allocate $45,000 for new film room furniture for players and staff, $15,000 for summer nutrition and $5,000 for squat safety bars.

"We are a non-profit organization that supports, promotes and encourages financial support for the NSU Demon football team," said John Kulakowski (1988), president of the Demon Boosters and a 1995 inductee into the N-Club Hall of Fame. "We strive to make the football program a very rewarding and competitive experience for the student-athletes and at the same time an enjoyable experience for our fans and alumni."

The group's spring Crawfest event was one of the most successful fund raisers ever hosted for an athletic team, supporting the mission of the group that began four years ago with nine volunteer alumni.

The group also acquired the vintage Demon logo that hung in the Student Union in the 1960s and 70s, according to Kulakowski. The Booster Club had it refinished and restored by Gretna artist Keith Eccles.

These Demon Brothers each donated $500 to have their name engraved on a plaque that will be mounted the entrance of the David and Sherry Morgan Health Performance Center. They are, kneeling, Milton Constransitch, Pat Turner and David Groman. Standing on the first row are Louis Scortino, Chris Hamler, Ken Meeks, John Smith, Gary Reasons, Rudy Hines and Brian Bailey. On the second row are Hal Harlan, Bryan Arceneaux, Russ Robinson, Mitch Rowe, Clint Stuart, Ed Thomas, Brian Guidry, Bo McCollister, Van Keyser, Jack Serpas, John Kulakowski, Bruno Clark and Frank Boudreaux. On the back row are Wayne Van, Thomas Little, Jean Pierre Arceneaux and James Hashert.

"It was originally going to be an auction item but at the last minute, we decided to call it Letterman Legacy and hang it in the entrance of the new performance center. Permission was granted by Director of Athletics Kevin Bostian," Kulakowski said.

Donors paid $500 each to have their name engraved on a plaque that will also be mounted the entrance of the David and Sherry Morgan Health Performance Center directly beneath the Legacy Logo. That facility is currently under construction.

Any letterman who wants to be a part of this legacy and have their name engraved on the plaque can do so with a $500 donation through the Demon Brothers Booster Club, Kulakowski said.

Demon Brothers hosted "Feed the Demons" for the team on Aug. 23 and will sponsor a Homecoming golf tournament on Friday, Oct. 3 at Northwestern Hills. This event is open to all alumni and the community. Tee time is 8 a.m. with a lunch at 12:30 p.m. The cost is $125 per player, $500 per team. Hole sponsorships are available for $200. Mulligans are $20.

Registration is available online at **demonbrothers.org**.

The Demon Brothers will also be tailgating starting at 9 a.m. Homecoming day. Look for their tents with Demon Brothers banners near the new performance center.

"Free food, free drinks, free game tickets for all Demon football lettermen," Kulakowski said. They will host an After Party in the tailgating area right after the game featuring live music with Deep Water Horison.

Information about the group is available at **demonbrothers.org**. You can also follow them on Facebook and Instagram.

Demons fans turned out in droves for Crawfest this past spring.

In Memory

1947 – Louise Bowers Duffel, July 20, 2025, Mathews

1955, 1962 – Kerry Leon Durr Sr., Aug. 18, 2017, Moss Bluff

1962 – Neval Hilton Durr, April 16, 2023, Moss Bluff

1957 – Marjorie Lee Brumley Ebarb, June 14, 2025, League City, Texas

1959 – James Orville Hammons, July 4, 2025, Fayetteville, Arkansas

1959 – Virginia P. Gremillion, June 3, 2025, Tucson, Arizona

1959 – Peggy Duke Williams, June 28, 2025, Natchitoches

1960, 1972 – Carol Joy Goldstein Allen Peters, Aug. 7, 2025, Shreveport
Mrs. Peters retired as associate professor and director of undergraduate studies in Nursing at after serving the university for 27 years.

1961 – Leroy Chiasson, June 28, 2025, Pearland, Texas

1962 – Joseph Maricelli, June 13, 2024, Merryville

1963 – Dell Thomas Morgan, Aug. 3, 2025, Natchitoches

1965 – James Woodard "Jim" Barr Jr., June 19, 2025, Shreveport

1965 – John James Moore, June 11, 2025, Winnfield

1965, 1970 – Joe Reece Salter, Aug. 16, 2025, Florien
Mr. Salter served in the Louisiana House of Representatives from 1986-2008, and as Speaker for those last four years. He was a member of NSU's Long Purple Line, NSU's Hall of Distinguished Educators, among numerous other honors, and served on the Board of Supervisors of the University of Louisiana System.

1965 – John Wingate Sr., Feb. 15, 2024, Evergreen, Colorado

1972 – Marsha Jean Hickman-Pike, January 3, 2025, Anchorage, Alaska

1972 – Dorothea Sheppard Gegenheimer, June 25, 2025, Covington

1972 – Kathleen Budd LeBouef, Aug. 4, 2025, Abbeville

1972, 1974 – Gordon D. Middleton, July 12, 2025, Atlanta, Georgia

1972 – Dr. Billy Jack Talton, June 18, 2025, Dubach

1973 – Myrna Bruner Hinson, July 16, 2025, Alamo, Georgia

1973 – C.C. "Petey" Johnson, June 21, 2025, Natchitoches

1975 – Sammy Nell McBride Barnes, July 21, 2023, Dry Prong

1975 – Cleola Ammons Chism, June 22, 2025, Shreveport

1975, 1977 – Odell Cobb, June 11, 2025, Robeline

1977 – Wayland Bradley Bearden, Aug. 6, 2025, Bossier City

1977 – Frances Nell Gallien DeLacerda, July 17, 2025, Natchitoches

1977 – Yvonne Lillian Marie Walther Dupuy, July 20, 2025, Natchitoches

1978 – Dr. Robert "Bob" Gillan, June 29, 2025, Natchitoches
Dr. Gillan was retired from the College of Education and a 2022 inductee into the Hall of Distinguished Educators.

1990 – Craig Huff, March 28, 2025, Augusta, Georgia

1991 – Mary Lynne Heald, June 16, 2025, Alexandria

2020 – Nicholas A. West, Aug. 11, 2025, Natchitoches

Herman Joseph Brevelle, June 8, 2025, Marksville

Coach Charlie Leon Johnson, June 17, 2025, Natchitoches
Coach Johnson was a renowned track and field coach at NSU for more than 30 years.

Kenneth Green, July 4, 2025, Vails Gate, New York
Mr. Green was a former Associate Director of Bands and Professor of Percussion at Northwestern State.

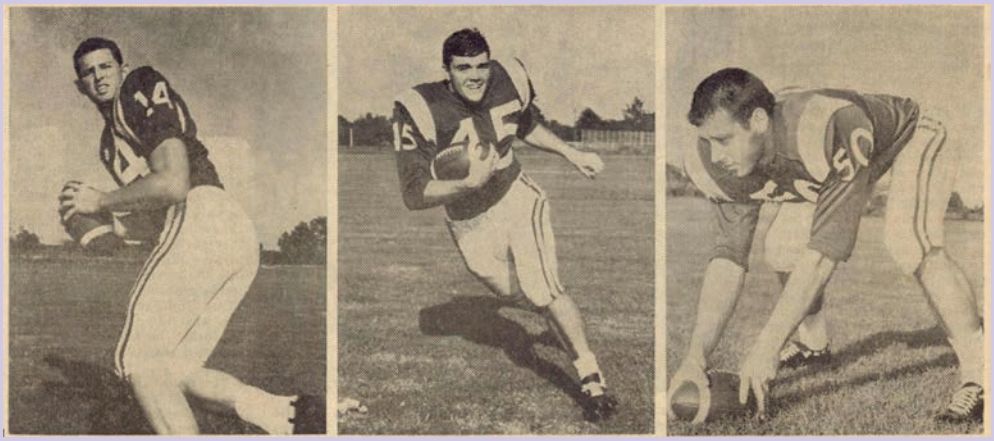
Dorothy "Kim" Long, July 8, 2025, Shreveport

Laura Bates Lavespere, July 13, 2025, Natchitoches
Mrs. Lavespere joined the NSU staff as an account clerk in 1955 and retired as controller in 1980.

Sydney Rae Ortego Harper, July 13, 2025, Lafayette
Mrs. Harper was the widow of the late NSU Professor of Art Grady Harper and was active in NSU's Campus Women's Association.

Guess Who

Northwestern State College opened the 1965 football season with a battle against the Wildcats of Louisiana College. ***Can you name the starting quarterback, halfback and center pictured in the Current Sauce's Sept. 24, 1965, edition?*** If so, send an email to jacksonl@nsula.edu with your name, city of residence and the year you graduated.



From the Summer 2025 edition…

The Current Sauce edition from June 20, 1995, pictured a rehearsal for that summer's production of the popular Broadway musical "Carousel." Pictured were Michael Rorex, Patty Breckenridge and Richard Rose. In an interview to preview the show, Dr. Jack Wann said, "One of the reasons we picked 'Carousel' was because it was revived on Broadway this year."

Those who guess correctly are as follows.

Frank Saunders (1996), West Monroe
Bill Brent, Director Emeritus, School of Creative and Performing Arts
Cecilia Smith (1968), Natchitoches
Craig Poleman (1985), Shreveport
Richard Rose, Natchitoches

Richard writes, *"The picture is of Patty Breckenridge, me and Michael Rorex. I produced the soundtrack for that great production of 'Carousel' for Summer Dinner Theater. It was a blast working with those people! I was on the faculty 37 years."*

Looking Back

OCTOBER 2005

Natchitoches has been the scene of many acclaimed films, but do you remember when a crew for the Lion's Gate television pilot for "Scarlet" came to town? The pilot was originally set to film in New Orleans in October 2005 but Hurricane Katrina forced a relocation to Natchitoches, where NSU students and residents were recruited as interns and background actors. One party scene at a cotton gin included about 135 people, mostly students, to participate in a 14-hour day of filming. While in town, the cast and crew attended football games and sat in on several NSU theatre productions. The company spent about $3.5 million in the city but the pilot was not picked up by a network.

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Class of 2029

Northwestern State welcomed over 1,100 freshmen to campus for the Fall 2025 semester, the largest class in three years, who come from 273 U.S. high schools and 53 international high schools representing 12 different states, 19 countries outside the U.S. and 60 of Louisiana's 64 parishes. Statistics for the class include $8M in scholarships and TOPS awards, 83 valedictorians and salutatorians and 79 Demon legacies in which a previous family member graduated from NSU. The class includes seven sets of twins, 18 students named Emma and Emily spelled six different ways, 14 students named Haley spelled seven different ways, 14 students named Kennedy spelled four different ways and 17 students named Madison spelled five different ways.